

REMARKS

Claims 1, and 3 through 5 remain in this case, with claim 1 being amended by this response. Reconsideration of this case, as amended, is requested.

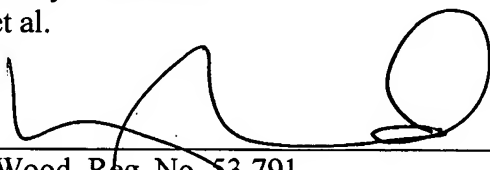
The amendment to claim 1 was made to correct a typographical error, specifically changing "annular housing" to "annular locking plate" as is supported in the specification on page 5-6, lines 22-20, the Abstract and in Figures 1A and 3. No new matter has been added.

Conclusion

Applicant believes the claims, as amended, are patentable over the prior art, and that this case is now in condition for allowance of all claims therein. Such action is thus respectfully requested. If the Examiner disagrees, or believes for any other reason that direct contact with Applicants' attorney would advance the prosecution of the case to finality, he is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

"Recognizing that Internet communications are not secured, I hereby authorize the PTO to communicate with me concerning any subject matter of this application by electronic mail. I understand that a copy of these communications will be made of record in the application file."

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